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NEW-ENGLAND

HISTORIC GENEALOGICAL
SOCIETY

INCORPORATED 1845



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New-England Historic Genealogical Society.

HISTORY.

THE New-England Historic Genealogical Society was formed in 1844, "for the purpose of collecting, preserving, and publishing genealogical and historical matter relating to New England families, and for the establishment and maintenance of a cabinet."

Few genealogical books were printed in America prior to the founding of the Society. Since its incorporation, almost every genealogical work of consequence in America is traceable, either directly or indirectly, to the influence of the Society, which is the most important genealogical society in America.

MEMBERSHIP.

The Society consists of 8 Honorary Members, 80 Corresponding Members, 255 Life Members, and 730 Resident Members. Resident Members pay five dollars on admission, and five dollars annually on the 1st of January, and receive the New-England Historical and Genealogical Register.

Membership is not limited to residents of New England, and is open to women.

Any member may become a Life Member and receive the Register, by the payment of fifty dollars at one time. Engraved certificates of membership are furnished if desired. Application for membership should be made through some Life or Resident Member. In order to increase the number of Life and Resident Members, blank forms for nominations will be furnished upon application to the Corresponding Secretary.

MEETINGS.

Stated meetings of the Society are held at 18 Somerset Street, Boston, on the first Wednesday of every month, except from June to September, inclusive. At these meetings original papers and essays are read.

NEW-ENGLAND HISTORICAL AND GENEALOGICAL REGISTER.

The New-England Historical and Genealogical Register is published by the Society quarterly in January, April, July, and October of each year.

Each number contains ninety-six or more octavo pages of valuable and interesting matter concerning the History, Antiquities, Genealogy, and Biography

of America, with a portrait of some deceased member.

Commenced in 1847, it is the oldest historical and genealogical periodical now published in this country; and its contributors comprise a list of the most eminent and competent writers on genealogy in New England, with many in other States and foreign countries.

Terms of Subscription, three (\$3.00) dollars per annum, in advance, commencing January; free to Resident Members paying five (\$5.00) dollars annually, and to Life Members who have paid fifty (\$50.00) dollars at one time into the Life Membership Fund.

A full set of the magazine sells at more than double the original subscription cost.

OTHER PUBLICATIONS.

At the present time the Society is publishing:—

i. The Vital Records (Births, Marriages, and Deaths) of Massachusetts towns, from the date of incorporation to the end of the year 1849. These are printed by a fund of \$20,000 set apart from the bequest of Robert Henry Eddy to the Society, and are sold to members and others, if ordered in advance of publication, at the rate of one cent per printed page. Only a limited number of copies are printed. The type is then distributed, and the extra

copies held on sale at a considerable advance on the subscription price.

The Vital Records of Montgomery, Pelham, Walpole, Peru, Alford, Hinsdale, Medfield, Lee, Becket, Sudbury, Tyringham, Bedford, New Braintree, Great Barrington, Washington, Gill, Arlington, Waltham, Chilmark, Bellingham, Palmer, Medway, and Newton, have been printed by the Society, and those of Edgartown, Norton, Medford, Sturbridge, Dracut, Middlefield, Heath, Scituate, West Stockbridge, Billerica, Weymouth, Holliston, Foxborough, Brookline, Tisbury, Granville, Hingham, Hopkinton, Dover, Townsend, Carver, Pembroke, and Duxbury, are in course of preparation.

An effort is being made by the Society to induce the other New England States to print their early records of births, marriages, and deaths.

2. Proceedings of the Annual Meetings, containing obituary notices of deceased members, distributed free to members of the Society and to all donors to the Library.

3. Biographies of deceased members, prepared by the Society's Historian, and printed by the Towne Memorial Fund.

4. A Consolidated Index of persons and places in the first fifty volumes of the New-England Historical and Genealogical Register, in process of publication. It will consist of five volumes the size of the present annual volumes of the Register.

5. Abstracts of Wills from the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, at Somerset House, London. The first volume, Register *Soame*, containing the wills of the year 1620, has over 600 pages, with about 40,000 names of persons and 10,000 of places. The price is \$6.00 per volume. To carry on this work successfully, the Society should have a special fund of \$10,000, donations to which are solicited.

Waters's "Genealogical Gleanings in England," the result of nearly twenty years' work, and costing nearly \$30,000, in two volumes, can still be supplied.

The Society has undertaken to copy and arrange systematically all records of births, marriages, and deaths, from court files, early New England newspapers, church records, clergymen's and sexton's private records, gravestone inscriptions, and family Bibles; but to do this work, special donations amounting to at least \$10,000 are needed. Some of these records should be printed.

Stationery of a uniform character will be furnished free by the Librarian to members and others who will undertake any copying for the Society.

The Society has taken steps to encourage the printing of indexes to all wills, deeds, and court files, and of the proprietors' records and town proceedings of Massachusetts towns.

LIBRARY.

The Library of the Society is open daily (Sundays and holidays excepted), from 8.30 A.M. to 5.30 P.M., and is *free to all*. It contains many thousands of volumes, pamphlets, and manuscripts relating to New England families and localities. The Library is consulted by from fifty to one hundred persons daily, some of whom come from distant places for this purpose, and assistance in the selections of books is cheerfully given by attendants. Members are allowed to consult books at the shelves.

Donations of genealogical books are thankfully received. Recent genealogical publications presented to the Library are noticed in the Register.

BUILDING.

The Society has been heavily taxed during recent years by the rapid and constant increase of interest in history and genealogy, and its building is no longer adequate for the proper use and display of its library and its cabinet of Colonial and Revolutionary relics, nor has it sufficient permanent funds for the maintenance of its Library and the prosecution of its work. If a new building is to be erected, at least \$150,000 in donations will be required.

Any of the executive officers will be glad to advise persons intending to give or bequeath money to the Society.

AIDS TO GENEALOGICAL BEGINNERS.

The following books of reference will be found useful in beginning genealogical research:—

Munsell's "Genealogical Index."

Savage's "Genealogical Dictionary."

Pope's "Pioneers of Massachusetts."

Hotten's "Lists of Early Passengers."

Griffin's "Index to Local History."

"New-England Historical and Genealogical Register," 58 vols.

"Essex Institute Collections."

The Society does not undertake research work ; but will, upon request, give the names of competent professional genealogists.

PUBLICATIONS OF THE SOCIETY FOR SALE.

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| New-England Historical and Genealogical Register. | Price list given on application. |
| Memorial Biographies of Members, 5 vols. | \$2.50 } set 10.00 |
| Rolls of Membership | .50 |

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|---|--|---------|
| Waters's Genealogical Gleanings in Eng- | | |
| land, 2 vols. set | | \$10.00 |
| Abstracts of Prerogative Court of Canter- | | |
| bury Wills, Register <i>Soame</i> , 1620 | | 6.00 |
| Montgomery Vital Records | | 1.00 |
| Pelham " " | | 2.25 |
| Walpole " " | | 2.75 |
| Peru " " | | 1.50 |
| Alford " " | | .50 |
| Hinsdale " " | | 1.25 |
| Medfield " " | | 3.25 |
| Lee " " | | 3.00 |
| Becket " " | | 1.25 |
| Sudbury " " | | 4.25 |
| Tyningham " " | | 1.50 |
| Bedford " " | | 1.75 |
| New Braintree " " | | 2.25 |
| Washington " " | | .75 |
| Gt. Barrington " " | | 1.25 |
| Gill " " | | 1.25 |
| Arlington " " | | 2.25 |
| Waltham " " | | 3.75 |
| Chilmark " " | | 1.25 |
| Bellingham " " | | 2.75 |
| Palmer " " | | 3.00 |
| Medway " " | | 4.50 |
| Newton " " | | 6.50 |

And others as published.

OFFICERS.

The officers of the Society are a President; a Vice-President for each of the New England States; a Recording Secretary; a Corresponding Secretary; a Treasurer, and a Librarian.

The Council of fifteen members consists of the President, Vice-President for Massachusetts, the two Secretaries, the Treasurer, and the Librarian, and nine elective members, three of whom are elected annually for a term of three years. There is also an Historian and an Editor of Publications appointed by the Council.

OFFICERS FOR 1905.

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| REV. ANSON TITUS | Somerville. |
| WILLIAM SWEETZER HEYWOOD | Boston. |
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| HENRY WINCHESTER CUNNINGHAM, A.B. . . . | Manchester. |
| GEORGE AUGUSTUS GORDON, A.M. | Somerville. |
| WILLIAM PRESCOTT GREENLAW | Sudbury. |

FINANCIAL NEEDS OF THE SOCIETY.

The attention of all persons interested in historical and genealogical research is called to the following estimate of the financial needs of the Society:

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| For a new five-story fire-proof Library building, with a hall to seat 300 persons, stack room for 250,000 books, and a read- ing room for 80 readers (tentative plans can now be seen at the Society's rooms, and sug- gestions are invited) | \$60,000 |
| Library fixtures, furniture, etc. | 30,000 |
| Land, 5,000 square feet, pur- chased, but not yet paid for | 30,000 \$120,000 |
| For addition to permanent fund, for purchase and binding of books, and increased expenses for care of a new building (calling for \$3,000 additional income per annum) | 75,000 |
| For copying records of births, marriages, and deaths from court files, church records, clergymen's and undertakers' private records, graveyard in- scriptions and family bibles | 10,000 |
| For preparing and printing a catalogue of the 60,000 books and pamphlets belonging to the Society | 8,000 |

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| For Alphabetical Abstracts or Digest of personal items in the Boston News-Letter and other New England newspapers, from 1704 to 1815, estimated to be equal to 8,000 printed pages | \$ 6,000 |
| For Genealogical research in England, a permanent fund of | 15,000 |
| For printing Abstracts of Wills from the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, England | 10 000 |
| For printing an Index to the first 50 volumes of the New-Eng- land Historical and Genea- logical Register | 7,000 |
| For estimated loss in printing Vital Records to 1850 of Mas- sachusetts towns | 5,000 |

The Treasurer, NATHANIEL C. NASH, 18 Somerset St., Boston, and all other officers of the Society will be glad to advise persons intending to give or bequeath money to the Society.

FORM FOR A BEQUEST.

I give, devise and bequeath to the New-England Historic Genealogical Society, a corporation duly incorporated by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and located in the City of Boston in said Commonwealth, the sum of dollars for the general purposes of said Society.

(If it is the devisor's intention that the sum bequeathed shall be devoted to any particular object, it should be clearly and definitely stated.)

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS



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